

**From:** rbrhodes  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/15/02 1:12pm  
**Subject:** Letter

6420 SE Winged Foot Drive  
Stuart, Florida 34997

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to address the outcome of the Microsoft antitrust suit. I am in agreement with the current settlement in so far as to say that absolutely no further action should be taken against Microsoft. I believe that this antitrust suit was unfounded from the start. The issue at stake here as I see it is not whether or not Microsoft is guilty of violating antitrust laws, but is whether or not the state and federal governments are guilty of infringing on free enterprise.

I am in agreement with this settlement for one reason only, and that is to see this suit come to an end immediately. I do not believe that Microsoft should have had to make the concessions that they have. Under the terms of the settlement Microsoft is required to license its Windows products out to 20 of the largest computer makers on identical terms, including cost. Additionally, they will be required to document and divulge key interfaces of the Windows operating system to their competitors for the purposes of software development. Should any of these internal interfaces fall under intellectual property rights, Microsoft will be required to grant fair license for the use of said intellectual properties. I believe that these restrictions are unfair to Microsoft, but once again I must begrudgingly support the terms of the settlement for the sake of further economic development and bringing this suit to a final resolution.

I have been a long time user of Microsoft products, and have owned several computers over the years. To have come this far only to be struck down by the jealousy of other less successful competitors is outrageous to me. To sum up my views on this issue I ask you this, where would the IT industry be today without the existence of Microsoft? Certainly not where it is now.

Sincerely,

Ronald Rhodes

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